Just to let you know that Raquel and I had a great time with friends and family on the island of Caluya and are now at Nasuli, Bukidnon, Mindanao, Philippines – near the center where Raquel and I used to live during the previous decade. We are staying in one of the old SIL center homes that is now being rented by Jorge and Retchie. Jorge was one of the young teenage boys on my soccer team, but now he is the leader for the YWAMers here at the province of Bukidnon. He along with two of his old soccer team mates (Jesson and Erjun) have also been heavily involved in revising the Cebuano translation I am overseeing along with Lenie. We presently are going over various passages they had flagged for me. Most of their questions have to do with exegesis: what exactly is the correct meaning of the Hebrew or Greek text. Raquel continues to check the Tagalog revision she is overseeing.

If interested, the following are examples of some of the issues we struggle with. Yesterday the team was puzzled that Judges 9:1 gives the impression that Jerub-Baal had 70 sons. However verse 5 gives the impression that one of them, Abimelech, killed 70 of his brothers, but one of his brothers escaped. The math does not add up. One would think it should be 68 that he killed since he did not kill himself and the one who escaped. After some discussion it was decided that we needed a footnote explaining that the 70 figure was probably an approximation. We also discussed how we should translate the Hebrew _____ ('yr). The problem is that Hebrew has only this one term for city, town, and village. Usually it is translated in the English translations as city, which often is translated into the Filipino Scriptures as siyudad (borrowed from Spanish), or for Cebuano a basically synonymous rendering is "lungsod". However cities/siyudads/lungsods are generally understood as large communities. Many (including myself) understand "city" as a community with a population of more than 10,000. I asked one American and he said his understanding of a "city" is more than 100,000. Genesis 4:17 in the NIV reads: "Cain lay with his wife, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Enoch. Cain was then building a city, and he named it after his son Enoch." I notice that most of the English translations also read "city" including the New Living Translation (even though NLT elsewhere is one of the few that often translates _____ as "town"). Here the Revised English Bible and Contemporary Version translated it with "town". Probably for most of us English speakers "town" would probably be a more accurate translation, since many of us English speakers could not imagine Cain, as the third human on earth, being able to build a large populated "city", especially since he was an outcast from his other siblings and

their families. I could go on and give you hundreds of other interesting passages we have to wrestle with. Thanking the Lord though that He gives us joy as we wrestle with the text. At the same time we continue to pray that His Spirit will direct us in His ways as we work with His Word. Praying the same for you. May He guide us all individually and as a family in Him via His Word and His Spirit. And thanks for your support and prayers as we try to make His Word more clear, accurate and natural in the various languages we are working in.

Yours,

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